

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing a structural strength of a spoke, which comprises the steps of:

a) compressing a main body of the spoke increasing cross-sectional areas of a bending section and a neck section utilizing a mechanical processing device to form a processed bending section and a processed neck section, the processed bending section and the processed neck section have a strength greater than a strength of the bending section and the neck section; and

b) repeating the compressing step a) ~~a predetermined number of~~ at least three times to produce a finished neck section having a predetermined neck section cross-sectional area and a finished bending section having a predetermined bending section cross-sectional area,

wherein, after the compressing step a) has been performed a third time, the finished neck section has a diameter 1.15 times larger than an original diameter of the neck section.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the spoke is made of a material selected from a group consisting of carbon steel, stainless steel, titanium, and alloy steel.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the strength of the processed bending section and the processed neck section increases each time the compressing step a) is repeated.